

*May 5, 2008*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that Bilal Houseyni won

The showcase and 11th District Art Competition was held on Saturday at the Grand Theatre Center for t

“I am continually impressed by the level of talent and the quality of work produced by all the students wh

As the winning piece, “George Meets Picasso” will hang in the Cannon Tunnel, a busy walkway inside th

“Every time I go to the Capitol I pass this amazing collection of artwork on the wall produced by young p

Upon hearing that a West High student won for the second year in a row, Kimiko Azama, Fine Arts Depa

Second place winner was Mary Theobald, also a student at West High, for her ink, prismacolor, color pe

A distinguished panel of judges from the 11th district selected the winning entry. The panel was compris

- Anita B. Carr, Commissioner, Dublin Heritage & Cultural Arts Commission
- John Nagle, Member, Stockton Art Commission
- Pam Wilhelm, Member, Tracy Art League & Arts Leadership Alliance

The competition is part of the annual nationwide Congressional Art Competition which showcases the art of high school students across the country.

Each Member of Congress hosts a competition among high school students in his or her district. The winner of the competition is selected by a panel of judges.

In addition to having his artwork displayed in the Capitol, Bilal Houseyni will be flown, with a guest, to Washington, D.C. to participate in the opening ceremony.

### About the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts

The Grand Theatre Center for the Arts is a unique interdisciplinary arts center offering professional and community arts programming.

The four buildings on the corner of Central Avenue and Seventh Street originally included two early hotels and a theater.

In 2002, the City of Tracy purchased the Grand Theatre and the adjoining properties, and hired the architect to design a new arts center.

Total cost for the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts project was \$20 million, which includes acquisition of the property and construction of the new building.